

BECOME A SMART VILLAGE

SMART Sustainable Villages Training Course

The development of rural communities has been supported for many years through excellent programmes such as LEADER.

For many years, however, rural areas were often seen as dependent and needing help.

More recently and particularly with the publication of Our Rural Future the national Rural Development Policy, the capacity of rural areas to contribute to national objectives has been recognised.

The SMART Sustainable Village approach is a way of responding to this changing environment in a positive and integrated way

This course has been organised by South Tipperary Development CLG (STDC), and is funded by LEADER. It will be delivered by experienced staff from The Technological University of the Shannon, Cabragh Wetlands and Community Engagement Partners.

To apply or for more details email darren.barry@tus.ie or sarabourke@stdc.ie

Closing date for applications Extended to 18th Jan, 2023



The SMART Village is an EU concept. SMART Villages are smaller communities in rural areas that use innovative solutions to improve their resilience, building on local strengths and opportunities. They rely on a participatory approach to develop and implement their strategy to improve their economic, social, environmental, and cultural conditions. One of the approaches to solutions is to examine those offered by digital technologies. In addition, this programme will focus on sustainability, biodiversity and responses to climate change.

The SMART Villages concept brings a fresh approach and opens new opportunities to improve the sustainability and resilience of rural areas and communities, delivering on the promise of “a better life in Rural Areas” and reflects the principle and methods associated with SMART areas.

This is an opportunity for 3 communities in South Tipperary to learn and practice the principles of SMART Village development and prepare a SMART Village Plan which is likely to be of benefit in the context of new climate action funding streams.

We are seeking expressions of interest from organisations which are well embedded in the community and are willing to work with other local groups to produce and implement a SMART Sustainable plan for their area. We would hope that a group of at least 8 people from each organisation/community would agree to participate. In that context you may have a number of people from your organisation involved but recruit others from the community at large to make up the group of eight.

In deciding on the groups to be selected we will be looking for a good geographic distribution, as well as effective community organisations.

There may be some costs involved in getting to where the training is being delivered but otherwise the programme is FREE.



TUS
Technological University of the Shannon:
Midlands Midwest
Ollscoil Teicneolaíochta na Sionainne:
Lár Tíre Iarthar Láir

www.tus.ie



**South Tipperary
Development CLG**



Funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development

Tionscadal Éireann
Project Ireland
2040



**Cabragh
Wetlands**



Details of the Course

What you will learn

At the end of this course you will have learned -

- Details of the EU's SMART Villages concept,
- Climate change actions including sustainable community energy concepts, green enterprise/ social enterprise, the circular economy, energy and transport, biodiversity and nature conservation, waste management, local food production and distribution.
- The local use of the Sustainable Development Goals
- Local Plan development skills such as reviewing existing plans; community consultation, asset and needs assessment, strategic visioning, drafting and review.
- Project Management
- Identification of potential projects to be developed including possible funding sources.

How you will learn it

We will use a number of different learning methods

- Some online classes
- Face to face workshops in your own community
- A number of fieldtrips
- Some reading, self-learning and tests
- Preparation of an outline Smart Sustainable Village Plan

Time commitment

There is a time commitment involved

- The programme will take place over about nine months
- An average of about 2.5 hours a week
- There will be breaks for school holidays and similar
- Field trips will take a half day at least

Assessments

There are no assessments involved in this programme, but you will be expected to participate in preparing an outline plan for your area

Award

At the end of the programme, provided you have had a minimum level of attendance, you will get a Certificate of Attendance from TUS.